NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020

**WELCOME TO THE LATEST NEWSLETTER**

It doesn’t seem five minutes since we broke up for Christmas, we hope you all had a wonderful time, and yet we are fast approaching the February half

Well what a year it has turned out to be with the onset of COVID 19 and everything that has brought about since March 2020.

Several older members of staff had to self-isolate or shield at the beginning of lockdown and initially COG was only able to offer places to children whose parents were classed as key workers.

All staff members were retained but were working on a reduced rota as we tried to remain as Covid secure as possible.

We re-opened fully in September and many of the measures that were introduced then, are still in use today, such as hand sanitisers available all through the building, masks being worn in communal areas and cleaning regimes that have always been thorough have been improved and increased in frequency and children are encouraged to wash hands on a more regular basis. If you need more information on the measures we have put in place, please speak to Marie the Nursery Manager.

**STAFF NEWS**

We said goodbye to several members of staff during the lockdown.

Jessica Wilson support worker in Blue Room left on 26th June.

Sharlene Dootson (Early Years Practitioner) left at the end of July as did Lou Jacobs our lunchtime assistant/support worker both from the Yellow Room.

Lindsey Allardice (support worker) left us on 21st August and is happily awaiting the birth of her daughter in January 2021

Justine has changed her role to support worker in the Yellow Room and reduced her number of days.

Lisa has extended her hours to work full time in the Yellow Room as a support worker.

We have welcomed Chloe Taylor as the lunchtime assistant in the Blue Room.

We will be welcoming Nicola Farnworth to the Yellow Room on the 30th November. She is a very experienced Early Years Practitioner and is moving to us from Stepping Stones Nursery.

We hope both Chloe and Nicola will be very happy here.

***THIS TERM’S THEME***

The overall theme this term is Autumn/Winter. The children have been looking at the changing colours of leaves and will be looking at cold weather, ice, snow etc.

We will be introducing Christmas themed activities after half term and in the lead up to the Christmas holidays.

We are still encouraging the children to drink more milk & water. Milk and water are available at snack times and water is provided for the children throughout the day.



Can we again remind parents/carers to make sure that your child’s clothing, particularly coats and shoes, are labelled with their child’s initials. This aids identification when we have to make sure that up to 20 coats and 20 pairs of shoes have to be allocated to the right children.

**ADVISORY SERVICE**

Each member of staff has their own area of expertise.

**Cheryl** – SEN appeals, EHC Plans, Health & Soc. Care & Disagreement Resolution.

**Nan** – Early Years, parental advice forms & draft EHC Plans.

**Karen** – Primary school & parental advice forms.

**Michael** – Secondary school & post 16

**Nicola** – on going cases, no new referrals as she reduces her hours until full retirement.

Check the website for information about services, workshops etc. [www.iasbolton.com](http://www.iasbolton.com)

DONATIONS RECEIVED

We have had very few donations since the last newsletter and they are as follows:

Duchy of Lancaster £600\*

Atherton Charity Cup £100\*\*

Bolton School Boys Division £200\*\*

In memory of David Smith £65\*\*\*

\*towards outdoor play equipment

\*\*towards the transport costs

\*\*\*towards Christmas

**WAYS YOU CAN HELP COG RAISE MONEY**

COG is now registered as a Charity on Amazon Smile. If you shop at Amazon follow this link and select COG as your charity <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1151118-0>

Then just make sure you go to Amazon Smile before you order anything and Cog may well get a small donation every time you shop at no extra cost to you. Everyone seems to shop with Amazon these days please share this amongst your friends.

COG has been chosen as one of three causes in your community which Co-op Members can select to support between now and 23 October 2021. The more members who select you and shop with us, the more funds you’ll receive.

Firstly you need to become a Co-op member, this will cost you a £1, then you will be given the option of choosing which charity you wish to support, then every time you shop at the Co-op or use certain Co-op services COG will receive a donation. Please consider it, share amongst your friends.

**BOLTON HOSPICE LOTTERY**

**AND**

**BWFC LIFELINE & GOLDLINE**

Did you know that COG is a partner in the Hospice Lottery and also BWFC Goldline & Lifeline Lotteries? This means that should you join either lottery, using one of our dedicated application forms, 35p of every pound you pledge to the Hospice and 70p of every pound you pledge to BWFC Lifeline/Goldline will be donated to COG.

The minimum payment is £1 per week for the Hospice, £1 for the Goldline and £2 for the Lifeline, it can be paid by Direct Debit, Cheque or Credit/Debit cards.

There are big weekly/monthly prizes.

**HOSPICE LOTTERY** – UP TO £1000 WEEKLY

**GOLDLINE** - £500 every weekday, £100s in consolation prizes and up to £5000 in the Goldline extra draw.

**LIFELINE** – Each week you have a chance of winning 1 x £2000, 4 x £100, 5 x £50 and 8 x £25 and up to £7500 in the Rollover draw.

For more information and an application form/s for either or all of the lotteries please speak to Annette in the office.